

Santa Barbara Public Library System

LIBRARY BOARD

DRAFT Minutes of the Board Meeting of April 27, 2015 held at the Eastside Library

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jonathan Glasoe; Milt Hess; Susette Naylor;

Christine Roberts

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

COUNCIL LIAISON PRESENT: Cathy Murillo

STAFF PRESENT: Irene Macias, Library Director; Margaret Esther, Library

Services Manager; Gwen Wagy, Youth Services Librarian; Jace Turner Supervising Reference Librarian; Marivel Zambrano-Esparza, Eastside Library Supervisor; Maria

Gordon, Executive Assistant

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was brought to order in Council Chambers at

6:00 p.m. on April 27, 2015.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Minutes of March 24, 2015 were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Eric Friedman, outgoing Library Board Chair, thanked the

Board for continuing to hold a televised meeting, and

hoped that this would be an ongoing tradition.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

New Business

1. Remarks from the Chair

Jonathan Glasoe thanked Councilmember and Library Board Liaison for the Council Cathy Murillo (present at the meeting) for her support. As particularly apt during construction and fundraising for the new Children's Library, he quoted Barack Obama: "At the moment that we persuade a child, any child, to cross that threshold, that magic threshold into a library, we change their lives forever, for the better."

2. Director's State of the Library Report and Presentation 3. Budget Review and Recommendations

Irene Macias introduced Library staff, and gave an outline of the meeting's presentation – to include both the budget for the two City libraries and for all the Libraries in the system. She then introduced each slide of the State of the Library Presentation (see below), giving an overview of the Library System and its services. Board members were impressed with the Library's performance relative to other similar sized libraries in California.

a. Receive an overview of the FY 2015-2016 proposed budget

Macias proposed Total and City Budgets for Fiscal Year 2016. A fee change proposal included Blu-Ray DVD replacement costs, the addition of two new meeting spaces for rent, and a reduction in late DVD fees from \$1 to \$0.25 per day in line with late fees for other materials. The presentation continued, covering Library capital projects, and key objectives.

Gwen Wagy, Youth Services Librarian, then introduced slides on Youth Services (YS), including the very successful Family Literacy program, and ongoing construction of the new Children's Library. Jace Turner, Supervising Reference Librarian, continued with slides on Reference and Digital Services, including the addition of PBS Streaming (documentary) Video service and the popular language program Pronunciator, new

multi-function copiers, and services such as the provision of one-on-one computer coaching. Marivel Zambrano-Esparza, Eastside Library Supervisor, presented slides on Eastside Library services, reporting on continued strong outreach, circulation and use of library services and programs, and on programs and partnerships with organizations such as the Santa Barbara Art Museum and the Mariposa Project (early intervention speech and learning therapy). Eastside will be hosting Black Gold photo essays on different cultural aspects of the Central Coast.

b. The Library Board provide comments and recommendations on the proposed 2015-16 budget and that the Library Director forward those recommendations to the City Council

Beginning comments and questions following the presentation, Christine Roberts asked staff to what they attributed the spike in Homework Help and Adult Literacy numbers and complimented them on the thought and planning invested in programs. Gwen Wagy replied main factors were word of mouth, radio ads, schools outreach, and the suggestion by Homework Help staff to add literacy tutoring during Homework Help; Irene Macias explained this had led to a successful grant to implement a Family Literacy Center. In relation to her concern about expenditure on salaries vs. book acquisitions, Susette Naylor asked for the number of volunteer hours. Macias replied that the hours were expected to exceed the predicted figure of 12,000 for Fiscal Year 2015. Given the high productivity of staff relative to other libraries, Roberts asked if staff had information on the relative position of Santa Barbara on salaries and benefits. Macias replied that salary surveys by the City showed it fell slightly below the median. Milt Hess asked if staff had data on the effect on academic **performance** of children in Library Programs. Gwen Wagy replied that these were being gathered through surveys and the assistance of UCSB students. Protection of confidentiality was an obstacle to collection of data from the School District. Responding to Jonathan Glasoe, Irene Macias replied that the **new performance and program venue** in the new Children's Library would not be included as a meeting room for rent. She also responded that the term "Marketplace" referred to the creation of attractive topical and face-out displays of library materials. Susette Naylor asked the basis for selection of libraries used for comparison. Macias responded that the selection included libraries from cities used by the City of Santa Barbara in its comparisons, neighboring libraries and a library from a similar coastal town. Naylor felt that no comparison was needed since each library serves its own distinct communities; Roberts stated that a comparison was helpful in showing how much tax dollars were achieving, and that expenditure on staff was needed for programs that created readers that would drive the need for book acquisitions. Susette Naylor asked how staff was using space beyond the Library, e.g., for storage. Macias replied that the need for space for books posed the main constraint on space usage; this was being addressed through the acquisition of more electronic materials, reduced YS shelving and the creation of more community space, and outreach efforts, especially in schools and pre-schools. Gwen Wagy added that YS programs also occur in community centers and at the now permanent Waterford site.

Susette Naylor made a **motion** to recommend that **City Council approve the proposed budget, including the restoration of the Children's Librarian position.** The motion was approved unanimously without discussion. Glasoe thanked staff for their presentation and work. Jace responded to a question from Milt Hess that the Wi-Fi upgrade had occurred on July 1st 2014 as part of the previous year's budget. Macias added that Bandwidth had been doubled and doubled again, with usage monitored on an ongoing basis, and that Black Gold (BG) was investigating the possibility of State wide funding for a fiber optic connection for all the BG libraries.

Board /Staff Communications

None

Future Agenda Items

Milt Hess requested discussion plans related to the authority given to the Library Director to promulgate rules.

Next Meeting: 12 noon, Tuesday, May 26th, Faulkner Gallery West, Santa Barbara Public Library. Meeting adjourned at 7pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Maria Gordon.